



Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council 2016 Annual Report to the Citizens of Massachusetts

Providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion.

Our Purpose

The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent agency funded by the federal government to work with the state of Massachusetts to better support people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Our Beliefs

Individuals with developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live full, productive and independent lives in the community. Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

Lasting Partnerships

The Council developed lasting partnerships with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and Bridgewater State University (BSU) between 2012-2016, becoming integral to the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series. This has resulted in \$12,500 in matching funds through the past five years from DDS alone. BSU has offered space and materials to area school districts resulting in more than 200 students from 18 school districts benefiting through the past five years.

All in A Day's Work Photo Contest...Take 2

The "All in A Day's Work" photo contest is held in October to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The purpose is to showcase contributions individuals with developmental disabilities make in their workplaces and communities. Thirty-one photos were voted on 2,641 times on the Council's Facebook page, a 193% increase from the prior year. Andrew Randall from Seekonk, Mass. took first place. The picture depicts Andrew volunteering at "Gifts to Give" in Acushnet, Mass.



Autism Insurance Resource Center

The Council's educational campaign around the passage of An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Autism (ARICA) led to the formation of the Council funded Autism Insurance Resource Center. Massachusetts is still the only state with a resource center to support the community in understanding and accessing coverage. In 2016, the Autism Insurance Resource Center responded to 1,144 requests for information and referral, 18 trainings, bi-monthly webinars and more than 20,000 Internet visits to the resource center. ARICA and the Autism Insurance Resource Center are recognized nationally as the most successful implementation of insurance coverage for people with Autism.

Our Report to the Citizens

We are pleased to present our annual *Report to the Citizens of the Commonwealth*. This report is also available on the Council website www.mass.gov/mddc. We encourage you to give us feedback. Please send all questions and comments to craig.hall@state.ma.us.

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Chances are you know someone with a developmental disability

Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that over 152,000 citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have a developmental disability.

What We Do

- Work to improve the system of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by bringing advocates together with lawmakers to make sure people with developmental disabilities are included in public policy decisions.
- Foster partnerships with disability advocacy groups and support initiatives that help to build the self-confidence, interpersonal and leadership skills that people with developmental disabilities need to live independently and play active roles in their communities.
- Serve as an impartial educational resource, informing public policy at the local, state and federal levels, to better meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

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Goals and Objectives: Years 1-5

Comprehensive Review and Analysis

The Council conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of state services and policies that affect people with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts. Through the five-year State Plan, the most impressive achievements occurred during 2014 and 2015, which were effectively addressed through legislative process. The chart below provides goal, year five status and a five year assessment. Also provided are important highlights through the five year period.

Goal	Year 5 Objectives Status	5 Year Period Objectives Assessment	Important Highlights of 5 Year State Plan
1. Transition	Met	Partially Met.	<i>The Council's five year objective that a minimum of 400 youth with developmental disabilities will improve knowledge and skills needed for adult life was met. In addition, the passage of the Transition Specialist Endorsement and mandating short term objectives in Individualized Education Plans were also met as a result of the Council's and partner's advocacy.</i>
2. Leadership	Met	Met and exceeded.	<i>The five-year objective to support 100 people with developmental disabilities to become leaders in disability advocacy was exceeded. The Council provided training and leadership opportunities to 1,178 self-advocates. The five-year objective to engage 400 people with developmental disabilities in disability advocacy was exceeded. Of the 1,759 people reported, 677 were people with developmental disabilities.</i>
3. Employment	Met	Met.	<i>The five-year objective for 100 individuals with developmental disabilities establishing portfolios for competitive employment was exceeded. 1,351 people with developmental disabilities established portfolios. In addition, 253 people were trained and developed employment portfolios that could lead to competitive employment, bringing the five-year total to 1,604. The five-year objective that a minimum of 50 people with autism and other developmental disabilities will receive employment supports through various state agencies was met. From 2012-2016 the Council was involved in coalitions with five disability advocacy organizations, educated 57 public policy makers, educated 1,166 members of the public and leveraged \$17,215.</i>
4. Supporting Families	Met	Met and exceeded.	<i>The five-year objective of a minimum of 100 families pursuing individualized family support options was exceeded in 2014. The five-year objective to provide access to information on respite options exceeded 600 families.</i>
5. Homes	Partially Met	Partially Met.	<i>The five-year objective that 100 people will pursue alternative housing options was partially met. The Council trained 183 people in housing. 224 people became active in systems advocacy, 2 policies were created, 188 public policy makers were educated, 99,177 members of the public were reached, \$8,930 were leveraged, 62 people were trained in systems advocacy and 45 individuals successfully pursued alternative housing options. The five-year objective that people with developmental disabilities in state school settings and their families will gain knowledge on the benefits to living in the community was met by reaching 293 people.</i>
6. Community Supports	Met	Met and exceeded.	<i>Community based service programs will adopt and utilize best practices in Positive Behavioral Supports exceeded 200 providers. Information needed to access services and supports for people with autism reached 3,221 people. Information to live safe and productive lives in the community reached 1,306 people.</i>
7. Self-Determination	Partially Met	Partially Met.	<i>People enrolled in self-directed services exceeded 877 with 1,120 participating in shared living arrangements. The goal for 50 people acquiring skills needed for self-sufficiency through Independence College was partially met with 42, but in the second year more than doubled the number of graduates.</i>

Note: This chart was derived from the 2012-2016 Program Performance Reports. The full reports can be viewed by visiting <https://www.ddsuite.org/search/>.



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Revenue and Expenses

Revenue

Source of Revenue	2016 Revenue (in \$)
Federal Funding	1,420,054.32
Commonwealth Non-Financial Match	275,851.64
Sub-Grantee Match	306,938.38
Developmental Disabilities Suite	189,829.05
Total Revenue	\$2,192,673.39

*The **financial mission** of the Council is to maximize the use of our federal awards, while leveraging additional resources from the Commonwealth, our grantees and other collaborations and partnerships, to meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives. The matching goal was met during the Council's first four years (2012-2016).*

Note: The Council is funded through a federal formula grant and is authorized under Subtitle B of Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000, and through state Executive Order #512.

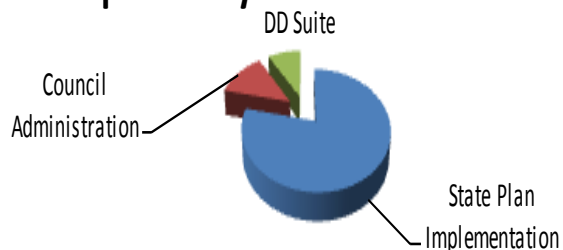
Independent Audit

The Council participated in the independent audit, receiving a clean opinion. Complete financial information is available at www.mass.gov/osc.

Expenses

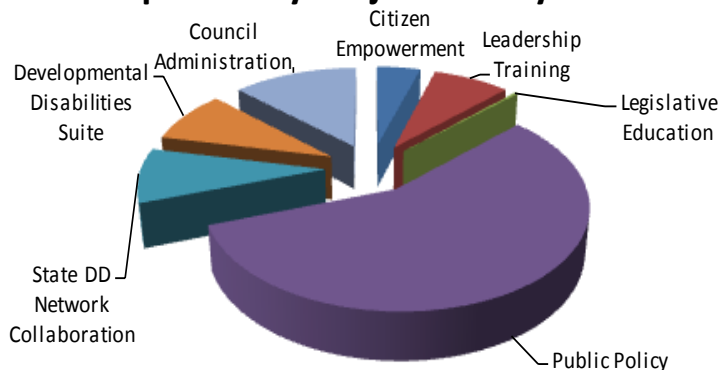
By Functional Area	2016 Expense (in \$)
State Plan Implementation	1,719,898.91
Council Administration	282,945.43
Developmental Disabilities Suite	189,829.05
Total Expenses	\$2,192,673.39

Expenses by Functional Area



By Major Activity Area	2016 Expense (in \$)
Citizen Empowerment	99,422.35
Leadership Training	174,271.18
Legislative Education	7,499.99
Public Policy	1,244,832.38
State Developmental Disabilities Network Collaboration	193,873.01
Council Administration	282,945.43
Developmental Disabilities Suite	189,829.05
Total Expenses	\$2,192,673.39

Expenses by Major Activity Area



What We Do: Our Primary Program Areas

The Council has two primary program areas. The **functional area** divides the organization by our program and administrative activities.

The **major activity areas** identify the program activities we undertake to successfully meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives.



A Model of Transparency

The Council's 2015 report received the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting from the Association of Government Accountants for advancing government accountability. The logo recognizes the importance of a citizen focused initiative for financial reporting.



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2012-2016 State Plan: Retrospective

2012-2016 State Plan: Retrospective

Through the five-year State Plan, the Council maintained operations and programs despite stagnant funding and a \$188,241 loss in overall budget. The prudent management of budget and staffing demonstrated adaptability to circumstances and environment while continuing to meet priorities for people with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts.

The Council achieved significant success through the five years, such as efforts to expand eligibility for adult services and enhancing protections for people with developmental disabilities. There was an expansion of self-determination through legislation mandating self-direction. The Autism Omnibus bill addressed unmet needs of individuals with autism and provided a mechanism for creating tax free savings accounts for disability related expenses. The National Background Checks law requires all employees with unsupervised contact with a person served by the state Department of Developmental Services to undergo a background check through the federal criminal records database. The "Real Lives" bill allows people with developmental disabilities to determine how to spend their DDS-allocated dollars on the services and supports they need. Restructuring plans closed all sheltered workshops in 2016 and expanded community services for people with developmental disabilities.

Through the five years, the Council's sub-grantees reported \$1,600,854 in matching funds toward State Plan goals and objectives, while the Council leveraged \$87,269,794 from grants and \$17,279,661 from staff led projects toward overall project goals.

2017-2021 State Plan: New Challenges

A State Plan committee comprised of Council members and staff reviewed the public's input and finalized the goals and strategies to be addressed over the next five years. Recognizing that the Council cannot address all issue areas, public input was the critical determinant in prioritizing goals for the new five-year plan.

The Council established four major priority categories for the plan: Advocacy and Leadership, Supporting Families, Inclusive Communities and Exercising Rights. The priority areas identified through public input are included under each of these categories. For people with developmental disabilities top areas included engaging in leadership opportunities, exercising the right to vote and developing self-advocacy skills. For family members, parents and guardians (excluding siblings) top areas included receiving needed levels of supports, obtaining affordable/accessible housing, and participating in meaningful and accessible community activities. For siblings top areas included preparation for suitable employment and protection from abuse. For advocates and professionals top areas included receiving needed levels of supports, building social relationships and support networks, and supported decision making.

The State Plan with detailed annual work plans can be read at the link below:

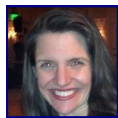
<http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/mddc/2017-state-plan.pdf>.

National Task Force



Craig Hall, Council Deputy Director and CFO, was one of 10 people in the United States appointed to the National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities to help state leaders identify barriers to employment at the state level and provide them with policy recommendations. The policy recommendations were presented at the 2016 Council of State Governments National Conference in December 2016.

Policy Committee



Kristin Britton, Council Deputy Director and Director of Disability Policy, was appointed as the chair of the Policy Committee for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD.) The committee's work is to develop and implement the policy priorities for NACDD.

Critical Issues and Barriers

In 2012, a new US Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities was established, which significantly changed the planning and reporting of specific goals and objectives. Federal funding continued to decrease compared to cost of living. The federal performance measures have also changed, which challenges the ability to quantify, validate and evaluate performance data.

Between 2012 through 2016, the focus for self-determination, self-advocacy, leadership development, family support and coordination of the state developmental disabilities network has remained. Looking forward, these will continue to be critical issues.

Maintaining High Customer Satisfaction

The Council conducts customer satisfaction surveys for projects and activities held or funded by the Council. Survey results help determine the impact of our efforts on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members. The questions are mandated by the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the results are reported in the Council's annual Program Performance Report. In 2016, 98.44% overall satisfaction was achieved. In 2015, 98.31% was achieved. The five-year average was 96.11%.



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